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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-16	LAB-04	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SIL-00
	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-16	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	RPE-01	CORE-00	/066W			

-----071279 191530Z /38

P 191527Z NOV 93
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5071
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 04117

YAOUNDE FOR DATT
GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
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TAGS: PINS, MOPS, PGOV, PHUM, RW
SUBJECT: CIVILIANS KILLED IN DMZ

REF: KIGALI 409B

1. (LOU) SUMMARY. CALM PREVAILS IN RWANDA IN THE
WAKE OF THE 11/17 INCIDENT IN THE RUHENGERI SECTOR OF
THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE (REFTEL). THE UNAMIR
INVESTIGATION CONTINUES WITH NO BLAME ASSIGNED AS
YET. THE GOVERNMENT CONDEMNED THE VIOLENCE AND IS
CONTINUING BUSINESS AS USUAL. THE RPF HAS DENIED

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RESPONSIBILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MET EVENING OF 11/18 TO REVIEW THE SITUATION IN RUHENGERI WHERE A NUMBER OF MRND PARTY OFFICIALS WERE KILLED EVENING OF 11/17. THE STATEMENT THAT FOLLOWED CONDEMNED THE ATTACK, APPEALED TO ALL SIDES TO CONTINUE THE PEACE PROCESS AND ASKED ALL SIDES TO RENOUNCE VIOLENCE.

3. (U) THE RPF HAS DENIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK, ACCORDING TO REPORTS ON INTERNATIONAL RADIO. (EMBASSY FSNS, HOWEVER, REPORT THAT THIS DENIAL HAS NOT YET BEEN CARRIED ON RADIO RWANDA.)

4. (U) THE UN FORCE, UNAMIR, REPORTED ON RADIO RWANDA THAT IT HAD SEEN 20 BODIES DURING ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT. HOWEVER, IT DECLINED TO ASSIGN BLAME TO THE RPF, AS HAD BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE RADIO STATIONS IN KIGALI. THE INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING AND A REPORT IS EXPECTED SOON.

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5. (C) THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD AMBASSADOR 11/19 THAT SHE HAD INSISTED THAT JOINT GOR/RPF TALKS SCHEDULED FOR 11/19 CONTINUE AS SCHEDULED. SHE CONFIDED THAT SHE IS COMING UNDER STRONG ATTACK FROM MRND STALWARTS WHO CONTEND SHE FAILED TO HEED THEIR WARNINGS THAT AN RPF ATTACK WAS IMMINENT. SHE SAID SHE HAD TOLD THEM SHE AGREED THE RPF WAS VIOLATING THE PEACE ACCORDS BY HAVING RPF SOLDIERS IN THE DMZ, BUT NOTED THAT GOVERNMENT FORCES WERE ALSO VIOLATING THE ACCORD BY THEIR PRESENCE. SHE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT, IN RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF RISING TENSIONS IN RUHENGERI, SHE HAD BEEN IN HER CAR READY TO DEPART FOR KIDAHU, ONE OF THE AFFECTED COMMUNES, WHEN WORD REACHED HER OF THE ATTACK.

6. COMMENT. SO FAR THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONTAINED REACTION TO THIS POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE INCIDENT. EVEN IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT AN RPF UNIT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLINGS, DOUBT IS DEVELOPING ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE ENTIRE RPF LEADERSHIP MIGHT BE IMPLICATED. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE UNIT IN QUESTION MAY REPRESENT A RENEGADE ELEMENT, POSSIBLY ONE THAT REFUSES TO RELINQUISH HOPES OF TOTAL MILITARY VICTORY, ONE THAT HOPED TO PROVOKE A GOVERNMENT REACTION STRONG ENOUGH TO

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JUSTIFY AN ALL-OUT RPF ATTACK. ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME OBSERVERS WONDER WHETHER HUTU WARNINGS OF IMMINENT RPF ATTACK MIGHT HAVE BEEN PART OF A HUTU EXTREMIST PLOT TO UNLEASH TUTSI KILLINGS. SO FAR, ALL EFFORTS SINCE THE COUP IN BURUNDI TO STIR UP ETHNIC VIOLENCE HAVE FAILED. INDEED, SOME OBSERVERS CLAIM THE ETHNIC CARD CAN NO LONGER BE USED IN RWANDAN POLITICS. IF THIS INCIDENT IS

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AM ATTEMPT TO PLAY THAT CARD, THEN IT, TOO, HAS
FAILED...THUS FAR. FLATEN

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